

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Joel Barrow and the Choctaw Academy as the first  
2 Indigenous American to become a college-educated medical doctor in the country and the  
3 first federal Native American boarding school that empowered him.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Joel Barrow was a visionary scholar who paved the way for future  
5 generations of Native American medical professionals in the Commonwealth of  
6 Kentucky and the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Joel Barrow was a proud member of the Potawatomi tribe, where  
8 he was known as Arcmuggue before later changing his name; and

9 WHEREAS, Arcmuggue, an orphan, was selected by his tribe to attend the  
10 Choctaw Academy in Scott County, Kentucky, which was the first secular, federal,  
11 Native American boarding school, built by Vice President R. M. Johnson in 1825, and,  
12 uniquely, at the request of Native tribes; and

13 WHEREAS, the Choctaw Academy would become known by historians as "the  
14 most important place in Antebellum America," having educated 600 Native Americans  
15 from 17 different tribes; and

16 WHEREAS, young Arcmuggue overcame great distress, as his arrival coincided  
17 with the Potawatomi period of removal, the "Trail of Death"; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Joel Barrow would later be remembered as among the most gifted  
19 students ever to attend this special school; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Joel Barrow overcame barriers and would go on to receive a grant  
21 from the United States War Department to pursue a medical degree from Transylvania  
22 University in Lexington, Kentucky, which he earned in 1844, making history as the first  
23 college-educated and college-trained Native American doctor in the country; and

24 WHEREAS, after completing his education, Dr. Joel Barrow went west to the  
25 Potawatomi tribe, utilizing his hard-earned skills for the benefit of his Native American  
26 brethren; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. Joel Barrow was among those who recognized that education is

1 the key to progress for all people, and he worked tirelessly in pursuit of this most  
2 worthwhile goal, thereby bringing tremendous honor and pride to his people and all  
3 citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The Senate is honored to pay a well-deserved tribute to the legacy of  
8 Dr. Joel Barrow and the Choctaw Academy.

9 ➔Section 2. The Senate remembers Dr. Joel Barrow and the Choctaw Academy  
10 with the utmost respect and admiration for the historic achievement and the profound  
11 impact that they have had and will have on generations to come.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
13 Resolution to Senator Matt Nunn for delivery.